

> **Pvt. R. C. Zahn**, Platoon 1008, Company C, high crawls toward a ditch, nearing the end of the Day Movement Course at Camp Pendleton's Edson Range. Recruits at both Marine Corps Recruit Depots must undergo this type of training, designed to mimic the rigors of a combat environment.

Photo by Cpl. Ethan E. Rocke

By Cpl. Ethan E. Rocke,
MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO



Hitting^{the} Beach Marine Corps Style

Dirt, mud and sharp concertina wire; explosions, machine gun fire and a new test of will every few meters – these are just a few things welcoming Marine recruits to the Day Movement Course at Range 505, Edson Range, Camp Pendleton, Calif.



▲ **Flat on their backs** and worn to a frazzle, recruits negotiate one of many obstacles on the Day Movement Course. The training course uses pneumatic machine guns, artillery simulators and a variety of obstacles, including several wire obstacles, to test the recruits' limitations.

Photo by Cpl. Ethan E. Locke



▲ **Recruits begin** the Day Movement Course in the back of static light armored vehicles. Once they receive the command to begin, the adrenaline starts pumping and it's all about speed and intensity.

Photo by Cpl. Ethan E. Locke

The course, which simulates a Marine Corps amphibious beach landing, introduces recruits to a mock combat environment, in which they apply individual movement techniques, such as the high crawl, low crawl, back crawl and individual rush.

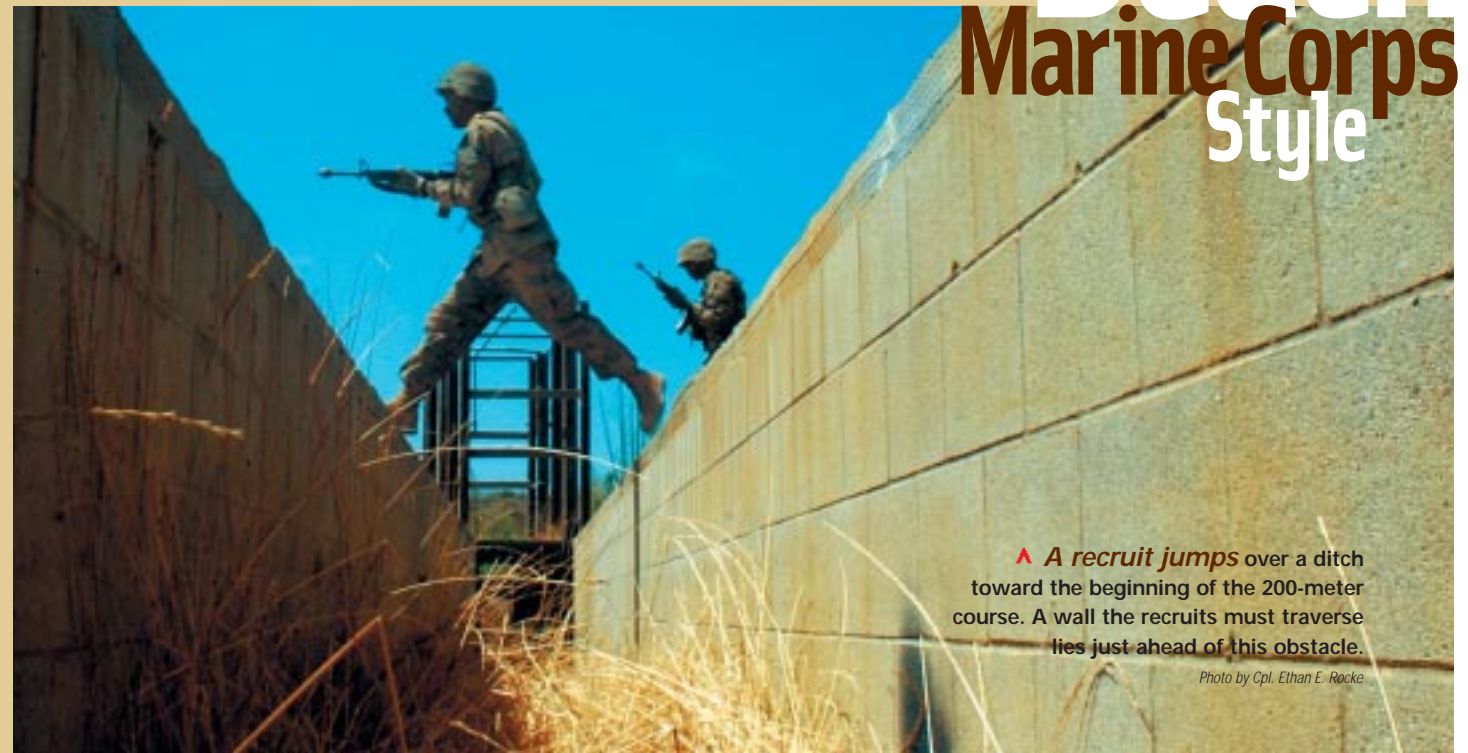
The 200 meters of scaling walls, jumping ditches, breaching wire obstacles, and crawling under barbed wire and through pipes reaffirms the Marine Corps doctrine of "we train as we fight."

The recruits camouflage their skin and equipment in preparation for the assault. In groups of 16 they pile into two static light armored vehicles, which mark the start of the course. There they wait, hearts thumping and minds racing, for the signal to rush forward and do what Marines do best – fight forward and refuse to be defeated.

They rush forward to meet what lies ahead, bolstered by their bellowing war cries. The world through which they run becomes muffled and distorted by the heavy fog of war. The machine guns, explosions and barbed wire surround them as they push through the chaos. Soon they will know what is meant by the warrior ethos "every Marine a rifleman." **M**



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▲ **A recruit jumps** over a ditch toward the beginning of the 200-meter course. A wall the recruits must traverse lies just ahead of this obstacle.

Photo by Cpl. Ethan E. Locke

▼ **On the course**, the recruits use the individual movement techniques they learned in recruit training, such as the tactical high crawl and low crawl.

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